

Cincinnati Recreation Commission

SWIMMING POOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission has the responsibility to provide a clean, pleasant, and safe environment for public swimming. Rules and regulations have been developed with that responsibility in mind. Situations may occur that require immediate corrective action. Lifeguards are expected to exercise their best judgment in those situations and have full authority to act in order to ensure the safety of all swimmers. To help us, we ask that all pool patrons follow these rules.

The following rules pertain to the swimming pools, bath houses, wading pools, grass areas, entrance ways and pool decks of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission:

Pool memberships (annual or daily user) are required for all patrons entering the facility, including infants and adults who are supervising children.

In situations where the police are called for a patron who is breaking a rule the patron's CRC pool/center membership may be revoked and the patron(s) will be removed from all CRC pools' property for the remainder of the membership period or pool season without a refund. Managers are to notify the pool supervisor and nearby pools and centers.

HEALTH CODE

- Any person suspected of having an infectious or communicable disease or any person with an obvious infectious wound, head lice (CRC has a no nit policy) or ringworm shall not be permitted to use the pool. However, these persons may be granted entry upon verification of a written statement from a physician that the condition is not infectious.
Reason: *Keep the chance of spreading infectious disease to a minimum.*
- Any person experiencing diarrhea or vomiting shall not be permitted to use the pool. This is especially important for children in diapers.
Reason: *Diarrhea can contain disease.*
- Please don't swallow pool water.
Reason: *Help educate children and protect yourself against Recreational Water Illnesses.*
- Please wash your hands with soap and water after using the toilet or changing diapers.
Reason: *Keep yourself and others from getting sick.*
- Please take your children on bathroom breaks every 30 to 60 minutes.
Reason: *Reduces the chance fecal contamination and the amount of urine in the pool.*
- Please change diapers in the restroom and not at poolside.
Reason: *Reduces germs on benches and pool area surfaces.*
- Please wash your child thoroughly (especially the rear end) with soap and water before swimming.
Reason: *Reduces the amount of fecal matter in the pool.*
- No person who is observed passing feces, urine or blood into a pool shall be permitted to use the pool until the condition is controlled.
Reason: *Body fluids may contain infectious pathogens and contaminate the water.*
- Patrons are asked to shower before entering the water.
Reason: *To reduce sweat, other body fluids and lotions in pool which affect the water chemistry.*

GENERAL FACILITY RULES

- Criminal trespass charges will be filed on individuals refusing to comply when asked to leave the pool area and CRC property.
- **Children's safety and their behavior are the responsibility of parents or group leaders, not the lifeguards.**
Reason: *Lifeguards are not babysitters. Lifeguards are busy watching their zones of coverage.*
- Children 17 and younger should be registered for membership by a parent or guardian.
Reason: *In case of emergency, information on minor children should be available. Parents should know where their children are.*
- Lifejackets are available free of charge and encouraged for non-swimmers.
Reason: *Children who cannot pass the ARC Level 3 swim test in deep water may be safer in a lifejacket while swimming in water over their heads.*
- **Children 7 years and younger** must be accompanied and actively supervised with touch supervision at all times in groups of three or less by a parent, legal guardian, or adult age 18 or older. Parents with more than three children under age six should make arrangements to have another adult assist with supervision.
Reason: *Highest incidences of drowning occur in this age group. Active adult supervision is mandatory.*
- **Children age 8** must be accompanied and supervised by a parent, legal guardian, or adult age 18 or older during open swim hours.
Reason: *Children should have supervision during open swim.*
- **CRC recommends that children age 9-11** be accompanied and supervised by a parent, legal guardian or adult age 18 or older during open swim hours. However, children age 9-11 are permitted to swim unaccompanied during open swim hours with a Permission Slip & Release of Liability Form signed by a parent or legal guardian on file at the pool.
Reason: *Some children age 9-11 are able to swim on their own.*
- Arrangements by established child care providers can be made in advance to accommodate ratios of one adult to 8 pre-school children (age 4 & 5); one adult to 10 elementary age children (age 6-9); and one adult to 15 elementary-age children (age 10-12). Child care providers must actively supervise children age 7 & younger with touch supervision.
Reason: *Must be approved by Pool Supervisor or Pool Manager.*
- Horseplay, rough or boisterous play, such as running, pushing, dunking or splashing, is not permitted.
Reason: *These are hazardous, a patron could be injured.*
- Profanity, improper behavior, intoxication and use of illegal substances, drugs and weapons is not allowed.
Reason: *It is unlawful to possess weapons, illegal substances and/or alcohol on CRC property.*
- Sexual harassment or harassment of any kind towards anyone is not tolerated. Sexual harassment includes inappropriate staring, sexually inappropriate comments, unwelcome touch, gestures and speech. If behavior occurs, patron(s) will be asked by the pool manager to discontinue the behavior. If the harassment continues, patron(s) will be asked to leave the facility and grounds.
Reason: *Harassment will not be tolerated.*
- Food, drinks, alcohol, gum and chewing tobacco are not permitted inside the pool facility. Food and drinks may be allowed on sites with designated food areas.
Reason: *Trash can cause problems with insects, ants and bees. Gum and candy can be a choking hazard. Alcohol impairs judgement which can lead to serious injury.*
- Smoking and electronic cigarettes are not permitted within 50 feet of the pool fence, building or inside the pool facility.
Reason: *CRC facilities are smoke free.*

GENERAL FACILITY RULES (Continued)

- All swimmers should wear proper swimwear. Underwear is not to be worn under swimsuits. Swimsuits with sewn-in floatation are restricted to the wading pool or require one-on-one constant touch supervision by an adult.
Reason: *Improper swim attire can be unsafe and can contain detergent residue.*
- T-shirts, basketball/thick mesh shorts, cut-off shorts, shorts with zippers, baggie shorts that expose the buttocks and thongs are not permitted. In case of severe sunburn, children should be out of the sun, not at the pool. Only specific, UV protective snug fitting, rash guard shirts are permitted in the pool.
Reason: *The loose fringe from shorts clog filter basket. Shorts with zippers or metal accessories scrape the slides. Soap in clothing affects water chemistry residual. T-shirts worn for over-exposure to sun do not protect adequately and are a potential safety hazard; they can come up over a person's face.*
- All incontinent swimmers (adults or children) must wear swim diapers/non-biodegradable diapers made for swimming.
Reason: *To help contain body fluids.*
- Only adults supervising children are permitted inside pool areas wearing street clothes, and must remain back near the fence, not up by the pool.
Reason: *Pool area is for those actively participating in pool activities. Patrons are too tempted to push in bystanders.*
- Glass objects, including beverages, are not permitted in pool facility (deck, entry way, office, or restrooms).
Reason: *Glass can cause injury if broken.*
- The City is not responsible for left, lost, or stolen articles.
Reason: *Staff cannot take responsibility for watching patron's valuables. Lockers are available at several pools.*
- Inappropriate display of affection is not permitted.
Reason: *Improper public behavior is not allowed.*
- Patrons are not to socialize with lifeguards or climb on guard chairs.
Reason: *This distracts from lifeguard's primary responsibility of surveillance.*
- Personal-space music (i.e.: phones, i-Pods, MP3 players, headphones) is allowed on deck by patrons only. Each pool site without a speaker system may have one sound system controlled by staff. Music is to be "family friendly" and not to include profanity, sexually explicit or racially offensive language.
Reason: *Some patrons do not like loud music. Guards may not be able to hear someone yell for help.*
- Patrons may be in the office with staff personnel for emergencies only.
Reason: *Office is for CRC business.*
- Phone is for emergency and CRC business use only. No personal calls. This applies to staff and to patrons.
Reason: *Phone must be available at all times for an emergency, incoming as well as outgoing.*
- Cell phones, video cameras and electronic devices are not permitted in restrooms or locker rooms.
Reason: *Restrooms and locker rooms are private areas for changing and showering.*

SWIMMING POOLS

- Absolutely no diving into water of five feet or less in depth.
Reason: *Head or spinal injury could occur.*
- No back dives or flips from the sides of the pool.
Reason: *Chance of injury is great.*
- Ball playing, frisbee and football tossing are not permitted in the pool facility.
Reason: *Patron can be hit by object resulting in injury.*
- During open swim, nerf balls, beach balls, foam logs (noodles) are permitted. Rubber rafts, tubes and other inflatable items are permitted at the discretion of the manager.
Reason: *During crowded conditions floats can interfere with swimmers as well as the lifeguard's line of sight. Clear floats are acceptable.*
- Kickboards are to be used only in lap areas or during lessons.
Reason: *Can cause injury if used improperly.*
- Swimmers using lap lanes must move continuously.
Reason: *To avoid swimmers running into each other.*
- Ladders, handrails and chair lifts are to be used only for entering or exiting the pool. Playing on ladders, handrails and chairlifts is not permitted.
Reason: *High incident of accidents can occur here.*
- Hanging on or swimming under safety lines is not permitted. Hanging on lane lines is not permitted.
Reason: *Can be a false security for non-swimmers.*
- Spouting or spitting of water in pool or on deck is not permitted.
Reason: *Not a healthy practice.*
- U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets Types I, II, and III are suggested for non-swimmers and are available for use at all pools at no cost. Absolutely no water wings or personal inflatables allowed in large pool. These items are permissible in the wading pool only.
Reason: *Water wings can deflate or slip off causing a dangerous situation for a non-swimmer.*
- Swim GOGGLES are acceptable. Face masks covering eyes and nose, fins, and snorkel are permitted only during organized swim class, Discover SCUBA program or underwater hockey games.
Reason: *Masks can fill with water, or slip over mouth and nose causing a potentially dangerous situation. Snorkels can flood, causing choking.*
- During rest periods, only those 18 years and older are permitted to swim. Children 7 years and younger are permitted in the pool at this time when one parent or adult accompanies each child. If there are no adults, this could be teen time, or a water game time, or eliminated altogether at the discretion of the pool manager.
Reason: *Allows younger swimmers a chance to rest and use the restroom.*

DIVING AREAS

- To be permitted to go off the board, patron must be able to swim to the side of pool without assistance.
Reason: All diving rules and regulations are for the safety of our patrons.
- One person on a diving board at a time (including steps of the ladder). The next person should wait on the deck until the person on the board goes off.
- Diving and jumping are permitted in a forward direction from the end of the board only. Make sure area under board is clear.
- Immediately after the dive, leave the water using the nearest ladder.
- Free swimming is not permitted in diving area unless the board(s) are closed and entire area is designated for open swim by the lifeguard with the manager's approval at non-crowded times. During open swim, no diving from the sides of the pool.
- One bounce on the board. This refers to a hurdle step and one bounce, not two.
- Hanging on boards is not permitted.
- Inward dives and sit dives are not permitted.
- Children are not permitted to jump off the board to other patrons or staff.
- Swimming under or between boards is not permitted.

WADING POOLS

- Only children 7 years and younger with parent or adult age 18 and older are permitted. One adult may supervise up to a maximum of three children in the wading pool.
Reason: Children younger than 7 have a high incident of water related accidents or injury.
- Parents and adults must actively supervise their children while in the wading pool area.
Reason: Lifeguard does not have the ability to adequately watch numerous preschoolers at once. Lifeguards are not babysitters.
- Prior arrangements by established child care providers can accommodate ratios of one adult actively supervising up to 8 children. This does not apply to zero-depth, non-wading-pool sites.
Reason: Pool Supervisor or Pool Manager should approve this.
- Dives from deck are not permitted.
Reason: In shallow water the possibility for injury is too great.
- Running is not permitted in the wading pool water or on the deck.
Reason: Falls and injury can occur on wet surface.
- Swim diapers are required. Regular disposable diapers absorb water and disintegrate and are not permitted in CRC pools.
Reason: To help contain body fluids and help keep disease from spreading.
- Climbing on or over wading and shallow pool dividing walls is not permitted.
Reason: Falls are likely and depths of water are different.
- Adults supervising children are not permitted in the wading pool in their street clothes. They may be in the wading pool area, but not in the water.
Reason: Residual laundry detergents upset the pool water chemistry.

SLIDES

- Slide riders should meet the minimum height posted at the slide.
Reason: So users can stand up in the splash-down area to get to the side of the pool.
- Lifejackets or other floatation devices are prohibited
Reason: Slide users should not need a lifejacket, but should be able to stand up in the splash-down area. Straps or buckles on lifejackets can damage slide surfaces.
- Slide users shall follow directions from the dispatcher.
Reason: Safety, so one person at a time goes down the slide.
- One user per slide on the starting platform at the top of each slide at a time.
Reason: Only one user can ride at a time.
- Always check to see if splash-down area is clear before entering the slide.
Reason: For safety reasons so users do not collide.
- Ride slide feet first, laying down flat at all times.
Reason: Head first entry into the shallow water can cause injuries.
- Stopping, changing positions and forming chains are prohibited.
Reason: For safety reasons, only one user at a time.
- Only one user sliding down the slide at a time.
Reason: For safety reasons, so no one collides.
- Users must exit the landing area, or splash-down area, immediately to the nearest side.
Reason: For safety reasons, to get out of the way of the next user.

SPRAYGROUNDS

Safety First:

- Remember, there is no lifeguard on duty!
- In an Emergency call 911
- Children should be actively supervised and accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Children's safety and behavior are the responsibility of parents/caretakers.
- Glass or other hazardous objects are not permitted.
- Do not climb on spray features.
- Be courteous to others - the following are NOT permitted:
 - Smoking/tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, alcohol, food or gum
 - Offensive or inappropriate public behavior
 - Running, climbing or rough play
 - Bikes, skates or skateboards
 - Animals of any kind

Health and Sanitation are important:

- Children who are not toilet trained must wear a swim diaper.
- Do not urinate or change diapers in aquatic spray area.
- Take regular restroom breaks and change children's diapers frequently.
- Wash hands after using restroom or changing diapers.
- Individuals with diarrhea should not use the aquatic area.
- Any person with an infectious wound or communicable disease should not use aquatic area.
- Do not drink aquatic area water - water recirculates.
- To report sprayground problems, please call (513) 352-4000.